

DATE: 1 July 1963

50X1

Computer: Personal

SECRETP&DS-23/63
1 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

SUBJECT: Computer for the Hycon Electronic Rectifier

1. The following information regarding a computer is submitted in compliance with the instructions of the Executive Director at a recent staff meeting.

2. The Agency's Hycon Electronic Rectifier (Serial Nr. 1) is being modified at the contractor's plant under Contract 931, Task Order 1. The purpose of the modification is to build a truly universal rectifier which can produce the equivalent of vertical frame photography from any photographic input regardless of format, station, location or distortion.

3. Early in the planning stage for the modification it was decided that it would be necessary to incorporate a computer into the rectifier. This will simplify the operation of the rectifier, reduce the time required for a rectification and eliminate the dependence on any other computer for punched program tapes. The biggest problem in the use of the rectifier at AMS (Serial Nr. 3) was the difficulty in obtaining the necessary punched tapes from the ALWAC computer because of other work which carried a higher priority.

4. Director of Research, Hycon Manufacturing Co., has stated that among all of the possible computers, the following look promising:

50X1

Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-4

Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-5

Control Data Corporation 160

Packard Bell Company PB-250

Librascope L-2010

Librascope L-90

Army Ordnance Corps FADAC *

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Computer for the Hycon Electronic Rectifier

NOTE: [] has been advised that, if the FADAC (Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer) is chosen, he should not attempt to start procurement action but should notify us. We can procure the FADAC [] and ship it to Hycon as Government furnished equipment.

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5. Since the computer will be incorporated into the rectifier the choice should logically be made by the Hycon personnel who are responsible for the design of the rectifier. While the computer will not be modified extensively, minor changes will probably have to be made to perform the interface. One of the contemplated changes would permit the use of punched cards to provide the input data. This will simplify the operator's set-up-time. The computer will therefore be a special-purpose computer which becomes an integral part of the rectifier rather than a general purpose computer and justification for its procurement should be the same as for any other shelf item such as a high-voltage power supply, wide band amplifier, etc.

50X1

[]
Assistant for Plans and Development

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee
2 - NPIC/P&DS

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